

South Precinct Email Community Newsletter
June 22, 2007



Dear Community Friends,

Recent Arson Activity

On Thursday, June 14, 2007, South Seattle experienced several arson incidents. At approximately 6:45 pm, fire was set to the Japanese Presbyterian Church (1800 Block 24th Ave S). While Arson investigators were at the scene, materials in a dumpster on the 1700 Block of 22nd Ave S. were ignited. Approximately 10 minutes after that, a sofa was set ablaze behind some businesses on the 2000 block of 21st Ave S. All of these incidents are under investigation by Arson and Bomb Squad detectives; three people of interest have been identified. Additionally, at about 10 pm Thursday night, a home on the 1500 Block of 25th Ave S experienced a fire that appeared to start in the basement portion of the home. Patrol officers did detain a person of interest near the scene, but it cannot be proven that the house fire was deliberately set, nor that it was related to the other fires that occurred in the vicinity.

On Friday, June 15th, Arson and Bomb Squad detectives conducted a stake out of the U-Haul location on the on the 2500 block of Rainier Ave S. For about five weeks, this U-Haul location had experienced a number of car prowls, thefts and small fires being set in the engine compartments of their vehicles. As a result of the stakeout, the detectives arrested the individual responsible. It has not been determined if this individual is responsible for the arsons that occurred the previous day.

You may recall two arsons occurred early April 2007 in the Columbia City/Hillman City area. These two arsons are still open investigations.

What You Can Do

Except for the house fire on the 1500 Block of 25th Ave S, all the fires were started using available combustible materials present at the location and were ignited with a hand held flame. To help prevent arson, we offer the following tips from the Seattle Fire Department:

- Lock doors and windows of your home, garage and car.
- Remove weeds and grass from around your home.
- Remove any trash, boxes or wood stored next to your home.
- Lock up gasoline or other liquids that could be used to start a fire.
- Trim bushes away from doors and windows.
- Leave outside lights on when it is dark.

As always, if you see suspicious activity, report it to 9-1-1 while it is happening.

Independence Day Celebrations

Another safety reminder we want to give you is regarding fireworks. City of Seattle ordinances prohibit the sale, possession, use, or discharge of all fireworks within city limits (including parks). Emphasis is placed on fireworks because of: the potential of Injury to persons because of carelessness or maliciousness; damage to property, and; the danger of fire. Last year, the Seattle Police Department implemented Fireworks Emphasis Teams to enforce the fireworks ban. Expect to see them this year, enforcing the fireworks ban, confiscating them and arresting violators. Don't say I didn't warn you.

Night Out 2007 Reminder

Finally, a reminder about National Night Out Against Crime 2007. It is Tuesday, August 7th. To register your block or group for Night Out on-line, go to www.seattle.gov/police/Nightout/Default.htm. If you want to close your street off, you can indicate that on the registration form. The deadline to register your group for Night Out is Friday, July 27th.

Until next time, Take Care and Stay Safe!

Mark Solomon, South Precinct Crime Prevention Coordinator